

because they haven't had anything to eat. You can't learn if you are hungry.

That \$40 billion cut that this House of Representatives voted for would throw 170,000 veterans off the program entirely.

Today, we are going to have the first meeting of the conference committee on the farm bill. I am privileged enough to be one of the conferees. I am going to tell my colleagues that I want very much for there to be a farm bill. I represent a lot of agriculture in Massachusetts. My farmers want a farm bill. Farmers all across the country want a farm bill. We need a farm bill for this country. I am willing to be flexible and I am willing to compromise and I am willing to accept things that maybe I don't like entirely because that is the way you compromise.

What I am not willing to do, and what every Member of this House should not be willing to do, is to support a farm bill that makes hunger worse in this country. As we speak, there are 50 million Americans who are hungry—50 million; 17 million are kids. We all should be ashamed.

Who is to blame for this? We all share the blame because hunger is a political condition. We can solve this. We know what to do. We just don't have the political will. We kind of turn a blind eye to the problem of hunger in America.

It is a problem, by the way, that not only costs dearly in terms of human suffering, but it costs us all in terms of kids who can't learn in school and avoidable health care costs.

We need a farm bill, Mr. Speaker, but let the price of that farm bill not be to increase hunger in America. Let's remember George McGovern, let's remember Bob Dole, let's remember people who understood the importance of combating hunger in America.

#### SUGAR VALLEY AIRPORT'S SPIRIT OF AVIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the poem "Impressions of a Pilot" opens with the line: "Flight is freedom in its purest form."

How perfectly that captures the allure of sky and space for so many who dreamed to conquer that frontier. Freedom and flight are inextricably linked.

This past Saturday, many young North Carolinians got to experience that freedom in a brand new way at Davie County Sugar Valley Airport. What a joy it was to be there.

A dedicated team of volunteers at the airport hosted "The Spirit of Aviation: The Next Generation" to introduce local students to the many career and recreational opportunities available to them through aviation.

Children and teens from local counties spent the day exploring aircraft,

trying their hand at flight simulators, listening to aviation innovators, and even taking flight themselves in "young eagle" flight expeditions.

□ 1030

Their faces were alight with excitement as they experimented with the physics of flight and felt the contagious enthusiasm of skilled aviators who, after years, still find freedom in the blue's high tide.

The Spirit of Aviation Day at Sugar Valley revealed to young people new career possibilities for their lives, and didn't just stoke the dream of aviation, but presented a step-by-step path students might take to see aviation dreams become a reality.

What stands out to me more than anything else is that this day of discovery and imagination was made possible by a community independently committed to encouraging the next generation of aerial pioneers—whether pilots, mechanics, or engineers.

Yes, the spirit of volunteerism and community service is alive and well in North Carolina. In fact, it is thriving; and every time I am home visiting nonprofits and meeting the people who make up their various support networks, I am proud of the Tar Heel State. The initiative and benevolent entrepreneurialism displayed by Carolinians contributes new chapters often to the collective record of American service.

The accomplishment of volunteers at the Sugar Valley Airport is just one example.

In 2010, a group of North Carolinians came together through Winston-Salem's nonprofit Human Service Alliance and bought the Sugar Valley Airport. Their hope was that the airport would facilitate the promotion of aviation, both as a sport and career field ripe with competitive jobs.

In 3 short years, with a dedicated team of volunteers supplying 100 percent of the vision, manpower, support, and direction, the airport has come to serve as a hub for flight enthusiasts and learning center for those considering the pursuit of pilot or mechanic work. In any given week, the airport may host Boy Scouts, civil air patrol cadets, experimental aviation enthusiasts, leading women pilots, and aviation ground school students.

North Carolinians take great pride in our "first in flight" distinction. It was on our Outer Banks that Wilbur and Orville Wright pushed the limits of gravity and completed history's first recorded controlled powered airplane flights.

With the commitment of the team at the Sugar Valley Airport, I can confidently say that our State, the home of Kitty Hawk, is intent on being the home of great aviators and pioneering aviation contributions for years to come.

Guidance and encouragement from Sugar Valley's seasoned pilots, mechanics, and generous volunteers will

continue to open a new world of opportunity to children in North Carolina.

In this world above the clouds, our children are free to dream, free to soar, and free to conquer the wild blue yonder and much, much more.

#### THANK YOU, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last week the Export-Import Bank transferred to the United States Treasury more than \$1 billion. The Export-Import Bank does not draw on the U.S. Treasury; it contributes to it. The Export-Import Bank has never drawn on the U.S. Treasury.

Instead, the Export-Import Bank does the following: it creates jobs. By independent assessment, more than 255,000 jobs are created by the bank, jobs that otherwise would not exist. The Export-Import Bank helps small businesses. Indeed, 87 percent of all transactions of the bank directly benefit small businesses.

But I ask you not to take my word for it. I would invite each and every Member of the House to go to the Web site and check the data about the number of transactions in their State and in their congressional district, and how that has helped to grow the economy.

The fact of the matter is that every single developed or developing nation in the world has some form of export assistance, be it direct loan guarantee or direct loans. And theirs, by the way, are proportionally larger as a percent of GDP on average than ours. If we were to discontinue it, it would be the equivalent of unilaterally disarming in an increasingly competitive global economy.

So, one more time: last week, the Export-Import Bank reduced our Nation's deficit by more than \$1 billion. The Export-Import Bank creates jobs. It helps small businesses. The Export-Import Bank makes America stronger.

Thank you, Export-Import Bank.

#### STOP BUREAUCRACY FROM CRUSHING OUR OPPORTUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, first, I appreciate being recognized for these 5 minutes, although it is always dangerous when a Member starts walking towards the microphone and they are doing it because something hit their desk and it annoyed them.

We have been working on something in our office to try to explain an intense frustration I have, and that is Washington and its embracing of delusional math. Look, I have only been here 3 years, and I have come to the conclusion that the single biggest problem I see is not the right-left continuum, but those who own calculators